

September 29, 1959

Dr. Lloyd Berkner
Associated Universities, Inc.
Suite 1750, Coliseum Tower
10 Columbus Circle
New York 19, New York

Dear Dr. Berkner:

If there is time at the next meeting of the Space Science Board, I would welcome a discussion of the scientific validity of the man-in-space program. NASA's sponsorship has implied a scientific justification for the program; however the lunatic fringes of Mercury can only make space research ridiculous in the eyes of many of our scientific colleagues. This is a grave impediment to the recruitment of competent biologists to undertake a serious interest in the space science program.

The Bioastronautics Committee is committed in advance by its terms of reference, and I believe that the Space Science Board is virtually the only group capable of such an independent evaluation.

Much more could be said about this problem, but might be better deferred to the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg

CC: Martine
Odishaw